

Notice of Allowability

Application No. 09/874,442	Applicant(s) OHMURO ET AL.	
Examiner Jimmy H. Nguyen	Art Unit 2673	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

- 1. This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 3/14/2005.
- 2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4.
- 3. The drawings filed on 05 June 2001 and 14 March 2005 are accepted by the Examiner.
- 4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 - 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

- 5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 - 6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
- 7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- 1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- 4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- 5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6. Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- 7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- 8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- 9. Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification:

At page 1, insert just below the Title a new paragraph entitled "**Cross Reference to Related Application**", as follows:

-- The present application is a continuation of International Application number PCT/JP99/06189, filed November 5, 1999, the entire contents of which are herein incorporated by the reference. --

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments, see pages 5 and 6 of the amendment filed on 3/14/2005, with respect to the claim objections, drawing objection, and the rejections under 35 USC 102 have been fully considered and are persuasive in view of the proposed drawing correction and the amendments to the claims. The claim objections, drawing objection, and the rejections under 35 USC 102 of the Office Action dated 12/10/2004 have been withdrawn.

Reasons for Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the claimed invention is directed to a liquid crystal display (LCD) device and a method for driving a LCD device comprising a domain restriction structure for restricting an alignment of the liquid crystal so that

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the alignment of the liquid crystal is substantially vertical when non-voltage is applied, substantially parallel when a predetermined voltage is applied, and inclined when a smaller voltage than the predetermined voltage is applied. Each independent claim identifies the uniquely distinct feature, “a voltage greater than a first target drive voltage corresponding to the second transmittance is applied between the pixel electrode and the counter electrode in a first period of changing to the second transmittance” (see lines 14-16 of claim 1 and lines 12-14 of claim 4). Liu (USPN: 6,097,464) discloses a related LCD device comprising a domain restriction structure for restricting an alignment of the liquid crystal so that the alignment of the liquid crystal is substantially vertical when non-voltage is applied, substantially parallel when a predetermined voltage is applied, and inclined when a smaller voltage than the predetermined voltage is applied (see figs. 6 and 9-11, col. 4, line 66 through col. 5, line 28, and column 6, lines 6-42), and Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) (see fig. 3B and the corresponding description of the pending application) discloses that a voltage (V_p) equal to a first target drive voltage (V_p) corresponding to the second transmittance and applied to a second period (Tf_2) is applied between the pixel electrode and the counter electrode in a first period (Tf_1) of changing to the second transmittance. However, the closest prior arts, Liu and AAPA, either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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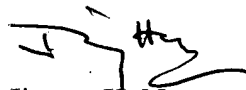
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jimmy H. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-7675.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached at 571-272-7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JHN
May 19, 2005



Jimmy H. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2673



Best Available Copy

Approved by
JHN
5/18/05

FIG. 3A

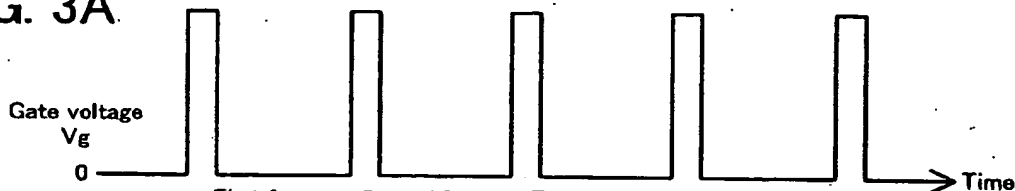


FIG. 3B
PRIOR ART

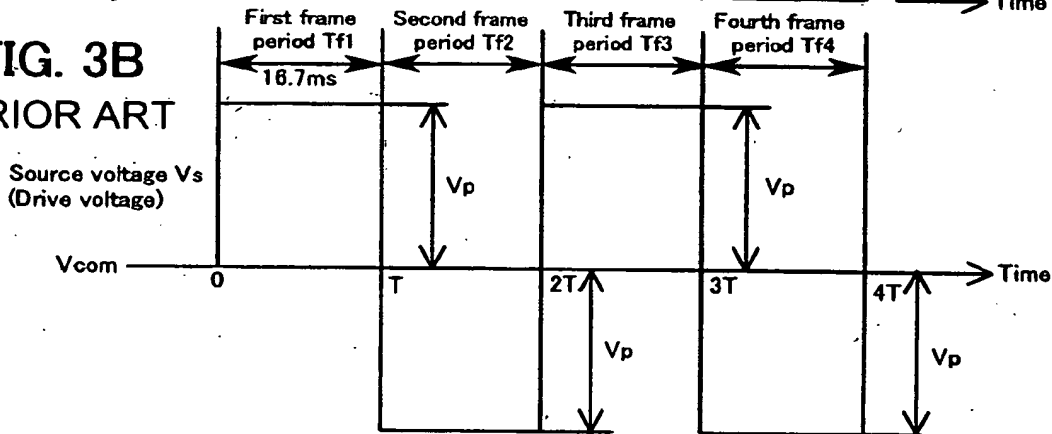


FIG. 3C

